

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 EA-11 SSO-00 CCO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 MC-02

OMB-01 SAJ-01 SCEM-02 SCI-06 DRC-01 /182 W

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R 161605Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5257

USINT CAIRO

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

UNCLAS BEIRUT 13243

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, XF, US

SUBJECT: 'ARAFAT'S TALKS IN IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA AND EHYPT

SUMMARY: INDEPENDENT DAILY AN NAHAR CARRIED DESPATCH FROM
CAIRO CORRESPONDENT FOUAD MATAR NOV 15 REPORTING 'ARAFAT'S
IMPRESSIONS OF HIS TALKS WITH ARAB LEADERS DURING RECENT VISITS
TO BAGHDAD, RIYADH AND CAIRO. MATAR, WHO KNOWN TO HAVE
EXCELLENT CONTACTS, PARTICULARLY IN EGYPT, CLAIMED 'ARAFAT
CONSIDERS HIS BAGHDAD VISIT TO HAVE BEEN ONLY PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL,
BUT THAT HIS TALKS IN RIYADH AND CAIRO WERE HIGHLY ENCOURAGING.
FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF MATAR'S ARTICLE. END SUMMARY.

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1. SPEAKING BOTH FOR HIMSELF AND SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD IN BAGHDAD, 'ARAFAT ASKED BAKR AND SADDAM HUSSEIN RETURN IRAQI TROOPS TO SYRIA. THEY DEMURRED, STATING ONLY THAT TROOPS WOULD BE SENT BACK IF AND WHEN FIGHTING RESUMES. BAKR AND SADDAM ASKED 'ARAFAT WHETHER FEDAYEEN WOULD PARTICIPATE IN ME PEACE CONFERENCE, TO WHICH W'DARAFAT REPLIED THERE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE AS LONG AS ARAB SITUATION REMAINS AS IS. TO REMAIN ALOOF, HE SAID, WOULD LEAVE FILED TO KING HUSSEIN TO DO AS HE PLEASE WITH PALESTINIAN QUESTION. IRAQIS REPLIED THAT ONLY PROPER COURSE WOULD BE FOR FEDAYEEN TO COME TO IRAQ AND CARRY ON STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL FROM THERE. 'ARAFAT SAID THIS WOULD CAUSE FEDAYEEN TO BECOME POLITICAL REFUGEES, AND NOTED THAT IRAQIS SCARELY ALLOWED HIS BODYGUARDS CARRY ARMS. IRAQIS ASKED FEDAYEEN COORDINATE WITH GOI IN OPERATIONS AGAINST JORDAN, AND 'ARAFAT SAID HE HAD NO OBJECTION.

2. IN MEETING WITH KING FEISAL, KING QUERIED 'ARAFAT RE FEDAYEEN RELATIONSHIP WITH SOVS. 'ARAFAT DESCRIBED RELATIONS IN DETAIL, NOTING THEY "GOOD, HONEST AND HONORABLE". HE WAS SURPRISED BY FEISAL'S COMMENT THAT THANKS AND APPRECIATION ARE DUE USSR FOR ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD ARABS. KING THEN REPROACHED FEDAYEEN FOR NOT HAVING FOUGHT ENOUGH IN OCTOBER WAR.'ARAFAT CALIMED FEDAYEEN HAD DONE DOUBLE WHAT WAS DEMANDED OF THEM, CITING (BOGUS) STATISTICS FROM POL COMMUNIQUE RE FEDAYEEN OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL. 'ARAFAT ALSO TOLD FEISAL THAT CHINESE HAD DELIVERED MORE ARMS AND AMMUNITION TO FEDAYEEN IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR EFFORTS. ASKED ABOUT HIS TALKS WITH KISSINGER, FEISAL TOLD 'ARAFAT THAT KISSINGER HAS ASKED HIM LIFT OIL EMBARGO AGAINST US, BUT THAT HE HAD REPLIED THIS WOULD DEPEND "ON MANY THINGS." FEISAL QUOTED HIMSELF AS TELLING SECRETARY, "I CAN NO LONGER DEFEND YOU (AMERICANS) VIS-A-VIS MY OWN FAMILY AND PEOPLE, MUCH LESS ARABS AT LARGE. WE WANT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND ASSURANCES THAT RIGHTS OF ALESTINIAN PEOPLE WILL BE PROTECTED". WHEN KISSINGER ASKED FEISAL WHAT HE MEANT BY RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, FEISAL REPLIED, "I MEAN PALESTINE. ... AN ARAB PALESTINE AND AN ARAB, ISLAMIC JERUSALEM. THAT IS WHAT WE INSIST ON." ACCORDING TO 'ARAFAT, ALL KISSINGER OBTAINED FROM FEISAL WAS INDICATION THAT OIL EMBARGO WOULD BE LIFTED WHEN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL BEGINS. KING ALSO MADE NUMBER OF OBSERVATIONS RE FEDAYEEN PARTICIPATION IN PEACE TALKS, WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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'ARAFAT INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT PALESTINIANS SHOULD REPRESENT THEMSELVES AND THAT NO ONE ELSE HAS RIGHT TO SPEAK FOR THEM.

4. IN CAIRO, 'ARAFAT FIRST DISCUSSED MILITARY SITUATION WITH SADAT. TENOR OF THIS DISCUSSION LED 'ARAFAT TO CONCLUDE THAT "WAR IS NOT OVER". SINCE HE BELIEVES NEITHER EGYPT NOR SYRIA CAN OR WILL ENDURE PRESENT SITUATION FOR LONG. (ACCORDING TO MATAR, MOST EGYPTIANS ANTICIPATE ANOTHER "SURPRISE" FROM SADAT--PROBABLY

ANOTHER ROUND OF FIGHTING, BECAUSE SADAT DOES NOT WISH GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE TO BEGIN IN MID-DECEMBER WITH ISRAELI FORCES STILL ON CANAL'S WEST BANK.) SHIFTING TO PEACE CONFERENCE, 'ARAFAT INFORMED SADAT THAT PLO WOULD AGREE TO PARTICIPATE ON CONDITION JORDANIAN QUESTION "IS SETTLED". 'ARAFAT SAID HE HAS GOTTEN IMPRESSION FROM KING DEISAL THAT KING HAD ALREADY MADE UP HIS MIND ON THIS SUBJECT (IN FEDAYEEN FAVOR). SADAT TOLD 'ARAFAT HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH KISSINGER PROBLEM ODYJORDAN AND QUESTION OF WHO REPRESENTS PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. ACCORDING TO SADAT, KISSINGER INTERRUPTED TO SAY,"BUT WE HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH JORDAN". SADAT THEN ASKED WHAT US POSITION WOULD BE IF THERE WERE UNANIMOUS ARAB AGREEMENT THAT PLO IS LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, TO WHICH KISSINGER REPLIED, "IN THAT CASE, SITUATION WOULD BE DIFFERENT" SADAT ALSO URGED KISSINGER EXERT GREATER EFFORTS WITH SYRIA AND PLO, SINCE HE SAID EGYPT WOULD NOT ATTEND PEACE TALKS WITHOUT THEM.

5. COMMENT: ARAFAT'S RENDITION OF HIS TALKS WITH FEISAL AND SADAT MAY ERR ON ROSY SIDE, SINCE WE UNDERSTAND FROM OTHER SOURCES HERE THAT BOTH LEADERS WERE CAREFUL TO INFORM HIM THAT THERE ARE LIMITS TO THEIR ABILITY TO GAIN FEDAYEEN ADMITTANCE TO PEACE TALKS. BUFFUM

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, PARAMILITARY FORCES, PRESS COMMENTS, PEACE TALKS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BEIRUT13243
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731130/aaaaavsz.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Oct-2001 by damankm0>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 'ARAFAT'S TALKS IN IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA AND EHYPT SUMMARY: INDEPENDENT DAILY AN NAHAR CARRIED DESPATCH FROM
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, XF, US, PLO, FEDAYEEN, (ARAFAT)
To: STATE CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005